

Vail Resorts' net income surges for fiscal year

Vail Resorts' net income was \$149.8 million for fiscal 2016, an increase of 30.5 percent compared to fiscal 2015.

The Broomfield, Colo.-based company that owns Heavenly, Kirkwood and Northstar ski resorts today reported results for its fourth quarter and fiscal year that ended July 31.

The number of season pass sold for this winter through Sept. 18 have increased approximately 24 percent, while the dollar value is 29 percent higher than a year ago.

CEO Rob Katz in a statement said, "Tahoe results rebounded strongly as favorable weather conditions helped to reactivate visitation in the region. We officially launched Epic Discovery at Vail and Heavenly this summer, driving significant increases in visitation and revenue in the fourth quarter of fiscal 2016 compared to the prior year. Our summer business will continue to grow as we further build out activities at Vail and Heavenly and officially launch Epic Discovery at Breckenridge next summer."

For fiscal 2016, total mountain net revenue increased 18.2 percent to \$1.3 billion. Total skier visits increased 18.5 percent to approximately 10 million, while total U.S. skier visits increased 13.2 percent. Retail, dining and ski school numbers all improved as well.

For investors, the board of directors has declared a quarterly cash dividend of 81 cents per share on Vail Resorts' common stock that will be payable on Oct. 25.

– Lake Tahoe News staff report

Tahoe Tails – Adoptable Pets in South Lake Tahoe



Cali

Cali is a 10-year-old calico girl who came to the shelter when her owner went into a nursing home. She is beautiful, soft and sweet, with pretty long hair.

She qualifies for our seniors for seniors discount. Cali has been at the shelter for almost two months and would love to go to her new home soon.

Cali is spayed, microchipped, tested for FIV, and vaccinated. She is at the El Dorado County Animal Services shelter in Meyers, along with many other dogs and cats who are waiting for their new homes. Go to the Tahoe animal shelter's Facebook page to see photos and descriptions of all pets at the shelter.

Call 530.573.7925 for directions, hours, and other information on adopting a pet. For spay-neuter assistance for South Tahoe residents, go **online**.

– Karen Kuentz

Edgewood to use lake water to cool hotel rooms



Edgewood Lodge will be open for summer 2017, with views of the lake and golf course. Photo/LTN

By Kathryn Reed

Guests at Edgewood Lodge will be able to feel the cool water of Lake Tahoe without ever having to dip a toe into the lake.

This is because developers are extending the in-take line used by Edgewood Water Company, routing that water through the hotel and then to the pumping station before it becomes potable. That water will actually be the air conditioning for the hotel.

“Instead of spending money on a chiller and cooling tower we spent money on the inline to the lake,” Patrick Rhamey,

executive vice president of Edgewood Companies, told *Lake Tahoe News*. “That way we will use less energy, less greenhouse gases, and it will go toward LEED certification for the hotel. It is a simple, but elegant way to conserve energy and provide air conditioning.”

The current line is 600-feet long, in a depth of 25- to 35-feet of water. The new line will be 3,000 feet, at a depth of 600 feet. That will allow the water coming into the building to be about a constant 46 degrees.

The water for the cooling system is never touched while it’s in the lodge. The pumping system is the same one in place for the water company.



Edgewood Water Company is extending the in-take line 3,000 feet into Lake Tahoe. Photo/LTN

Ratepayers of the Stateline water company will not be affected; the nearly \$1 million price tag for the new pipe is being charged to the lodge project.

The existing pipe will remain as a backup.

Edgewood is going after LEED silver certification; this is a federal designation in regards to how green, or environmentally efficient the structure is.

The lodge is slated to open by Memorial Day 2017. It will be possible to make a reservation starting Oct. 24. About 300 more employees will be hired, essentially doubling the staff of Edgewood Tahoe. Edgewood is operating and managing the lodge.

In addition to the hotel rooms (nothing is for sale, these are not condos), there will be a restaurant that caliber-wise will be in between the fine dining restaurant and sports bar that have long been at the site. The lodge restaurant will be bistro-style, serving three meals a day – to guests and the public. It will be the largest of the three dining options, seating 200, along with outdoor tables.

The 8,000-square-foot spa will have multiple treatment rooms. There will also be a salon for people to get their hair and nails done. Edgewood is hoping this will make for a more inclusive option for wedding parties.

A pool will front the lake, as well as a fitness room. These will be exclusively for guests.

The 3,000-square-foot conference center can be divided off into smaller sections. There will also be retail, and for guests an adventure concierge service.

In the future it's possible 40 residential style units would be built along the fairways of holes 8 and 9. Owners can also add more than 5,000-square-feet of meeting space if there is the demand.

Opinion: Expanding what diversity means

By Joe Mathews

In California, embracing diversity is not just about being comfortable with demographic change. It's about protection against disasters, natural and manmade.

California is a disaster-prone state, and when calamity strikes, diversity—of all kinds—keeps bad times from becoming even worse.



Joe Mathews

The central insight into diversity as protection is biological: a diverse eco-system is more resilient because it has a much broader variety of ways to respond to stress and calamity. This insight applies not only in forests, but also in neighborhoods, governments and industries.

When an ecosystem loses its diversity, when the variety of trees and plants and other species narrows, you get disasters that are more damaging than those we've seen before. That's the story behind California's mega-wildfires—like the Soberanes Fire in the Big Sur area, now the costliest fire to fight in U.S. history. Instead of allowing smaller fires to

thin and renew our lands, keeping them diverse, we've suppressed fires for decades. Now, when the calamities of climate change and drought are upon us, our lands lack protection.

Something similar can happen when disasters strike neighborhoods. The most resilient communities are ones with people of different ages, varied levels of education, and diverse sources of income. When the housing and foreclosure crisis struck California a decade ago, communities across the state got hurt. But the hardest hit were newer low and middle-income communities inland whose residents conformed to a similar socio-economic profile. Such tracts were all but wiped out by foreclosures, while neighborhoods that mixed home-owning retirees with families and young single renters were more likely to struggle through.

At the same time the housing crisis hit, a lack of diversity was making the economic catastrophe even worse in my own profession: journalism. Economic and technological changes (especially the rise of the Internet) were going to do damage to established newspapers and TV stations no matter what. But media outlets made things worse, by employing too many of the same kinds of people.

At the papers where I spent my youth—including the L.A. Times—editors almost exclusively hired people with journalistic training, and were wary of technologists. In addition, the near absence of racial and ethnic diversity in newsrooms meant that media outlets lacked community allies willing to support them when times got rough. So these vital civic institutions didn't have the diversity of expertise and connection to protect against massive change in the business.

When you think about all the ways a lack of diversity leaves us exposed to danger, the lesson should hit home. Diversity is not something to be celebrated or embraced as a virtuous luxury. It must be sought out and developed as a core

strategy for survival.

Unfortunately, California is so diverse that we've come to take our diversity for granted. The state's racial and ethnic diversity is really a legacy of our parents and grandparents who brought with them very different cultures and experiences. Today's Californians are majority homegrown, so, despite our different shades, we are more homogenous than ever before. With immigration levels to California declining dramatically from previous decades, we need to think about renewing our population, by attracting more people from around the world.

In our old-line neighborhoods, we need to stop fighting affordable housing and new developments that bring badly needed diversity. And we need to stop obsessing about income inequality—which is really just diversity of income—and instead make sure that people with different incomes can afford to stay in California, and live and work productively together.

We must stop protecting our highly centralized system of state government, in which Sacramento makes regulatory and tax decisions for us all, and return real control to local governments so they can embrace very different destinies. And we should fight back against those who demand ideological purity in our politics and parties—and purge those who dissent from the party line. Those who create political monocultures are making it possible for dangerous people to invade and take over political institutions. (Ask your Republican friends—they'll know what I'm talking about).

Biologists will tell you that the healthiest eco-systems often have gradual borders of transition, where, for example, forests slowly become grasslands. California communities need such spaces too. If your town is divided by a big highway or railroad tracks, build big parks or restaurants or grocery stores over these divides to attract people from both sides.

In the meantime, get out there and become part of our diversity. Make new contacts not like you, move to a different neighborhood, and ignore all your like-minded friends on Facebook. You're not just turning over a new leaf. You're protecting the forest from a bigger fire.

Joe Mathews writes the Connecting California column for Zócalo Public Square.

Calif. billion-dollar pension tab keeps growing

By Jack Dolan, Los Angeles Times

With the stroke of a pen, California Gov. Gray Davis signed legislation that gave prison guards, park rangers, Cal State professors and other state employees the kind of retirement security normally reserved for the wealthy.

More than 200,000 civil servants became eligible to retire at 55 – and in many cases collect more than half their highest salary for life. California Highway Patrol officers could retire at 50 and receive as much as 90% of their peak pay for as long as they lived.

Proponents sold the measure in 1999 with the promise that it would impose no new costs on California taxpayers. The state employees' pension fund, they said, would grow fast enough to pay the bill in full.

They were off – by billions of dollars – and taxpayers will bear the consequences for decades to come.

Read the whole story

E-bikes may rejuvenate cycling industry

By Buck Wargo, Las Vegas Review-Journal

The future of bicycling rolled toward a clear trend this week, gaining speed throughout the 34th annual Interbike Exposition in Las Vegas with only a light push of the pedals.

Once aboard the electric bike, that's all the effort it might take.

Imagine you're riding a bike, come to a hill and slow down as you climb. The e-bike's sensors can tell you're struggling. All of a sudden it feels like you have a hand on your back, pushing while you barely peddle.

That's the new rage in biking, though some traditionalists consider an electric motor cheating. But the industry, which has seen bicycle shops in the U.S. decrease from 5,000 to 4,000 over the last decade, sees the e-bike as a product that could reverse the trend.

Read the whole story

Citizenship applications

surge in Nevada

By Megan Messerly, Las Vegas Sun

Citizenship applications in Nevada were up 52 percent in the first six months of the year compared with the same period last year, according to data recently released by the federal government.

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services reported that 6,303 permanent residents in Nevada applied to become citizens between January and June, compared with 4,147 in the same period last year.

There are a number of reasons someone might apply for citizenship. However, at a citizenship drive in April, many applicants pointed to the possibility of a Donald Trump presidency as the reason they finally decided to apply for citizenship even though they had been eligible to apply for years.

Read the whole story

Squaw's Ganong going after downhill title

By Megan Harrod, USSA

Growing up minutes from Squaw Valley, Travis Ganong found himself in the Mighty Mites peewee program as a tyke. He devoured the opportunity.

"Cliffs, chutes, pillow-lines, arcin' turns down the Dog Leg!

I couldn't get enough," he recalls.

With his sisters showing the way, he got into the race program. He pointed to his sister Megan's time on the U.S. Ski Team and said he wanted to follow her lead.

The U.S. men's alpine team has accomplished almost every major feat on the Audi FIS Ski World Cup – Olympic gold, World Championship gold, slalom and giant slalom titles, Hahnenkamm gold.

That is, except for winning the coveted downhill title. Steven Nyman (Sundance, Utah), Travis Ganong (Squaw Valley) and the rest of the American downhillers hope to change that in 2017.

At the end of the 2016 season, Nyman was ranked sixth, a rank that matched his previous career best from 2015. However, he also did something no other American downhiller had done before – not Tommy Moe, nor AJ Kitt, nor Truckee's own Daron Rahlves, nor even Bode Miller (Franconia, N.H.).

Nyman grabbed four podiums in four consecutive World Cup races: Jeongseon (third), Chamonix (second), Kvitfjell (third) and St. Moritz (second). Not only does that streak bode well for Nyman at the 2017 World Championships in St. Moritz, but that kind of consistency also suggests good things for his quest to hoist the crystal globe.

"Obviously, to finish the season in the U.S. will be special, but with the way our team is currently performing ... I think there's going to be a lot to celebrate at the end of the year. For me, my big goal is that downhill title," said Nyman. "I believe I can do it, and if I'm the first American male to ever win the downhill title, that would be a storybook ending in Aspen."

With the confirmation of World Cup Finals in Aspen, the Americans have the chance to win crystal globes on home turf.

Let's take this one step further: Nyman and Ganong have the chance – for the first time ever – to win an American Downhiller title.

To do that, though, they'll have to fend off the dynamic duo of Norwegian skiers Aksel Lund Svindal and Kjetil Jansrud – along with the young Aleksander Aamodt Kilde – ranked second, fourth and 12th, respectively, in the downhill standings in 2016.

Ganong was ranked 11th last season. The Italians – Peter Fill is the reigning downhill champion – and the French will also be in the hunt, along with Nyman's podium ping-pong comrade, Switzerland's Beat Feuz.

Food, toy drives benefit Christmas Cheer

The American Legion Post 795 of South Lake Tahoe is having a toy-food drive for Christmas Cheer.

Drop off new, unwrapped toys and/or non-perishable food items on Oct. 1 from noon-5pm at the American Legion Hall, 2748 Lake Tahoe Blvd.

Over the years, Christmas Cheer has provided thousands of toys and meals to local families.

For more information, contact Mike Herron at 530.307.9624.

Placer County streamlining permit process

North Tahoe Fire District and Placer County Tahoe Community Development Resource Agency are rolling out a pilot program to offer simple building permit approvals from both agencies in one place.

North Tahoe Fire District staff will be available on Tuesdays from 8am-4pm at the Tahoe CDRA building in Tahoe City. Fire district staff will be available at the front counter to review and approve applications that do not require Tahoe Regional Planning Agency permits.

Since these permits must be reviewed and approved by the fire district and county, the new service expedites the permit process.

Residences and businesses located outside North Tahoe Fire District's jurisdiction will need to obtain permit approvals from their area's fire district office.